

7. (Once Amended) A protein according to Claim 6 wherein said at least one [of the] coiled coil regions comprises the sequence from position 216 to position 240 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No 2.

8. (Once Amended) A protein according to Claim[s] 1[-7] wherein [the] said hydrophilic N-terminus comprises the sequence from position 1 to position 280 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No 2.

10. (Once Amended) A protein according to Claim[s] 1[-9] wherein [the] said nucleotide binding site comprises the sequence of positions 114 to 119 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No 2.

11. (Once Amended) A protein according to Claim[s] 1[-9] wherein the nucleotide binding site comprises the sequence of positions 116, 118 and 120 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No 2.

12. (Once Amended) A protein according to Claim[s] 1[-11] wherein [the] said EF-hand consensus sequence comprises the sequence from position 16 to 28 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 2.

13. (Once Amended) A protein according to Claim[s] 1[-12] wherein [the] said hydrophobic C-terminus comprises a membrane spanning region.

14. (Once Amended) A protein according to Claim[s] 1[-13] wherein there are three coiled coil regions.

15. (Once Amended) A protein according to Claim 1[-14] wherein said at least one coiled coil region corresponds to an epimorphin pattern.

16. (Once Amended) A protein according to Claim[s] 6 [or 7] wherein [the] said at least one coiled coil region corresponds to an epimorphin pattern.

17. (Once Amended) A protein according to [any preceding claim derivable] Claim 1 that is derived from a plant, or a mammal.

19. (Once Amended) A method of screening for protein-protein interaction comprising the use of a protein of [any preceding claim] Claim 1 and selecting compounds exhibiting said interaction.

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21. (Once Amended) A [N]nucleic acid encoding the protein of [any one] of Claims 1 [to 18, or 20].

22. (Once Amended) A [N]nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of a [comprising the] sequence from positions 18 to 97 shown in SEQ.ID No. 1 [or] and the sequence from positions 77 to 991 shown in SEQ ID No. 3.

23. (Once Amended) A [N]nucleic acid sequence encoding for a protein capable of affecting an ABA response and wherein the protein comprises one or more of:

- (i) a hydrophobic C-terminus;
- (ii) at least one coiled/coil region;
- (iii) an EF-hand consensus sequence;
- (iv) a nucleotide binding site; and
- (v) a hydrophilic N-terminus;

or a variant thereof.

24. (Once Amended) A [N]nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 23 wherein the protein is capable of being cleaved by the toxin botchellinium C.

25. (Once Amended) A [N]nucleic acid sequence according to Claim[s] 23 [or 24] comprising the sequence from position 18 to position 917 as shown in SEQ ID No 1 or positions 77 to 991 shown in SEQ ID No. 31.

26. (Once Amended) A protein encoded by the nucleic acid of [any one of] Claim[s] 22 [to 25].

27. (Once Amended) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of [any one of] Claim[s] 21 [to 25] operably linked to a promoter.

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31. (Once Amended) A method of selecting compounds capable of affecting a plant's response to stress comprising screening compounds which bind to the protein of [any one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 18 or 20] and selecting compounds exhibiting said binding.

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34. (Once Amended) A [N]nucleic acid comprising the sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 5.

35. (Once Amended) A cell comprising the anti-sense sequence to the nucleic acid of [any one of] Claim[s] 21 [to 25].

37. (Once Amended) A plant, fungus or mammal comprising the anti-sense sequence to the nucleic acid of [any one of] Claim[s] 21 [to 25].

38. (Once Amended) A cell, plant, fungus or mammal according to Claim[s] 36 [or 37] wherein the anti-sense sequence comprises the sequence shown in SED ID No. 5.

41. (Once Amended) An assay method according to Claim[s] 39 [or 40], wherein the animal cells are oocytes.

42. (Once Amended) An assay method according to [any one of] Claim[s] 39 [to 41], wherein the animal cells are from *Xenopus*.

43. (Once amended) An assay method according to [any one of] Claim[s] 39 [to 42], wherein interaction of the signaling component with the ligand causes an increase in free Ca^{2+} levels within the cell.

44. (Once Amended) An assay method according to [any one of] Claim[s] 39 [to 43], wherein the first detectable physiological effect is an electrical signal.

45. (Once Amended) An assay method according to [any one of] Claim[s] 39 [to 44], wherein the signaling component is an ABA signaling component.

46. (Once Amended) An assay method according to [any one of] Claim[s] 39 [to 45], wherein the signaling component contained within the cells is derived from one or more nucleotide sequences (e.g. mRNA) injected into the cells.

47. (Once Amended) An assay method according to [any one of] Claim[s] 39 [to 46], wherein the assay method includes the further step of observing a second detectable effect.

49. (Once Amended) An assay method according to Claim 47 [or Claim 48], wherein the second detectable effect is an electrical signal.

50. (Once Amended) An assay method according to Claim[s] 39 [to 49], wherein if a second detectable effect is observed the composition of the plant nucleotide sequence is compared with compositions of non-plant nucleotide sequences to determine if